GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:222
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2005
EXPLORTION OF MINERALS
Kaswan Shri Ram Singh

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether mineral reserves viz. iron, gold, silver, diamond have been found in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the schemes formulated by the Government to explore these minerals ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA)

(a) to (c) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERED TO IN THE REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 222 REGARDING EXPLORATION OF MINERALS ASKED BY SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN FOR ANSWER ON 18TH March 2005

(a) : Yes, Sir. The exploration agencies like Geological Survey of India (GSI), State Directorates of Geology and Mining (DGMs) and Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) have established reserves of iron and gold, in different states.

(b) : During the last 3 years i.e. 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 reserves of iron and gold were estimated and extensive exploration for diamond, gold and silver were carried out as details given below:

Iron Ore

A total of 121.46 million tonnes of iron ore reserves has been estimated in the country during the last three years.

Gold

A total of 21.044 million tonnes of gold ore has been estimated containing approximately 40 tonnes of gold (metal) in the country during the last three years.

Diamond and Silver

No reserves were estimated during the last three years for diamond and Silver. There is no mine of silver in the country, however, silver is being recovered from the polymetallic deposits of copper, lead and zinc from Khetri and Zawar areas in Rajasthan and Malanjkhand in Madhya Pradesh as by product. It is also recovered as a co-product in gold refining from Hutti Gold Mines, Karnataka.

(c) : The Government implements its schemes for exploration of iron ore, gold, diamond and silver through its subordinate office, Geological Survey of India, besides State Governments and Public Sector Undertakings.

Geological Survey of India has finalized schemes for exploration of minerals in various parts of the country. Government also grants Reconnaissance Permits (RPs) and Prospecting Licenses (PLs) to interested private entrepreneurs for exploration of minerals. As per National Mineral Policy (NMP) 1993, the exploration and exploitation of all non-fuel and non-atomic minerals have been thrown open to private investment.